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Approved For Release 2005/08/17 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000500440007-3

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Reported Extermination of Some 300 Tirana Citizens,
May 51

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DATE DISTR. 5 APR 54

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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2. "One night in May 1951 two hand grenades were thrown into the garden of the Soviet Embassy in Tirana. That same night, in retaliation for this "act of sabotage against the greatest friend of the Albanian people"-- to use the official charge, some 400 persons were arrested, mostly members of the intelligentsia. Three hundred were put to death that same night. The rest were detained at the Burgu Iri and Burgu Ivjeter prisons of the Sigurmi Shtetit. The following days relatives of the arrested persons went from one prison to another trying to locate them and give them food. Food for about 300 persons had been refused and returned to the donors.

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3. "The persons killed that night included:

- (a) Ali Kaceli, aged 40, a business man who owned a shop on Rr. Barrikatavet in Tirana. He lived on Rr. Pishes with his wife and four children. They were on starvation level after his death.

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- (b) (fnu) Elezi, aged 55, a pharmacist who was unemployed in May 1951. He was married to a French woman and had two children. They lived on Rr. Duresit in Tirana.

4.

"The chief of the Sigurimi Shtetit (Security Police-S.SH.) in Tirana in May 1951 was Xhavid Struga. His official title was Shef i S.SH. Qytet-Tirane.

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5.

"Of the 100 intellectuals who were arrested but not killed, about six were released in November 1951.

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one of the people released
Tirana Radio Station.

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6.

the deaths of the 300 persons in May 1951 were ordered by the MVD in Moscow. The Albanian S.SH. had compiled a list of 400 persons considered reactionaries and "enemies of the people". It included many former Fascists, but also many innocent persons, who were merely intellectuals and businessmen of bourgeois origin. Struga, the Chief of the S.SH. in Tirana, sent the list to the MVD in Moscow. The MVD ordered their extermination in some feasible manner; based on some act of sabotage or crime against the regime. Two agents of the Albanian S.SH. threw the grenades into the Embassy garden. (This might easily be true, since there was no damage). The 400 persons were arrested that midnight.

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